PRESS

Same Old Farce

Writing under the caption "C. R.—Gandhi plot," the *Sunday Observer* says: Mr. Gandhi, who is not even a four-anna member of the Congress, has been relieved of his leadership by the Congress Working Committee. The same old farce has been re-enacted. The Congress Press has extolled the decision as a "gesture" and been emphasising that the responsibility for making the next move lies with the British Government. But, as Sir Mohamed Usman has pointed out in a press interview, when the two chief political parties in the country do not agree, what can the British Government do? Mr. Jinnah has reiterated his warning against any declaration which will militate against Pakistan. Any move on the part of the British Government to conciliate anti-war propagandists will only make the situation worse.—*Sunday Observer.*

Ministerial Government

Commenting on the statement of His Excellency the Viceroy in his last speech that he hoped to see the day when, in the provinces which were still without a ministerial government they would see in power governments set on the winning of the war, the *Manshoor* says: It clearly shows that His Excellency the Viceroy and the British Goverment desire the establishment of ministerial Government in the six provinces which had Congress Governments. We are not opposed to the idea. Nevertheless, there should be a previous settlement between the Congress and the League as regards provincial matters. In case Congress ministeries of the old type are allowed to re-establish themselves in the six provinces it will create a new problem of maintaining the internal peace and tranquility while the war is developing not very far from the eastern frontiers of the Indian subcontinent. The Muslims are not prepared to tolerate a Government which may be under the sway of the Congress High Command and in which the Muslim League would have absolutely no say. His Excellency the Viceroy has rightly said that if the conditions in the provinces were not changed the differences with regard to the future constitution would still remain. We may add here that in the event Congress Governments are established in the provinces without the co-operation of the League, it will lead to an intensification of differences.—The *Manshoor*, Delhi.

League Stand Just

Commenting on the statement of Mr. Jinnah in which he had warned the Government that should they entered into any settlement with the Congress contrary to the Muslim interests it would be vehemently opposed by Muslim India the *Sarosh* says:—

The stand which the League has taken is just and fair. It is not opposed to the Hindu demands. On the contrary we would be too glad to see the end of British imperialism over the sub-continent of India. But at the same time we would not like the imposition of Ram Raj, instead. Unlike the Congress, who wants Hindu domination all over India, the League stands for the freedom of all peoples in the sub-continent.—*Sarosh*, Bombay.

"Muslim League a Power to Reckon With"

(Continued)

between Hindus and Muslims may be achieved. This is wholly misleading. Unity cannot be achieved merely by Hindus and Muslims of the anti-Muslim League variety working together in the same Cabinet. To achieve unity or co-operation or mutual toleration the communities have to come together, and this can only be done if the Muslims are united and the Hindu organisations are prepared to work and co-operate with the Muslim League and not get behind the Muslim League by attempts at mass contact or by capturing some of the alleged Muslim representatives who imagine themselves safe because they have no election to face. We, too, are most anxious to work in harmony and co-operation with the Hindu Community and we await the day with confidence when the Hindu organisations will come to an agreement with the Muslim League and achieve the political salvation of India. In the mean time I may repeat what I said a few days ago at Barisal where we received a most tremendous ovation. "Unity cannot be achieved over the body of a dismembered Muslim community."

Past and Present

It must be realised that the composition of the Ministry is of little consequence. Too much excitement has been caused at the personnel itself and we are likely to lose sight of the principles involved. It does not matter how many or how few Hindus, Scheduled Castes and Muslim Ministers there are and what is their proportion. What does matter is that the Ministerial Party which consisted mainly of Muslims and Scheduled Castes (the representatives of the masses) and of fair-minded Caste Hindus has been replaced by a Party dominated by the militant Hindu Mahasabha and the Forward "Bloc" and by those elements which opposed the beneficent measures of the late Muslim League Ministry and the very spirit behind the administration. All that we had achieved and worked for are on a fair way to being undone and destroyed; the spirit has now changed as the Muslims are already beginning to realise to their cost.

I cannot anticipate all the arguments that will be advanced and the propaganda that will be made and the steps that will be taken to bring about disruption in the Muslim ranks. Those who love the Muslim community and the Muslim League, who believe in the solidarity of the Muslim Nation and in Pakistan must realise the necessity of upholding the power and the prestige of the All-India Muslim League and rallying the masses under the banner of the League in this grave crisis, for it is only through the All India Muslim League that the Muslim community will reach its political, social, economic and religious goal. The League has welded the Muslims into an organised mass and has made our community a power to be reckoned with. No constitution for the future of India can be fashioned without the support and the consent of the League, a consent and support which will be forthcoming for all reasonable proposals as may be expected from a responsible organisation. The sin of those who attempt to destroy or minimise the power of the organisation is unpardonable, the more so, at this critical period when the method and goal of the next constitutional advance is being seriously considered and interested parties taking advantage of the defection of unreliable and volatile politicians are loudly declaiming that the Muslim League is unrepresentatives and should be ignored.

The Crime

The crime in its enormity is unforgiveable and well may Mr. Fazlul Huq ponder over his oration delivered in Calcutta in 1938 that if he ever combined with the Congress and the Hindu Mahasabha his Government would be of no greater account than the Government of Shah Alam or Mir Jaffar and that he will be doing nothing better than signing the Islam-killing "firmans" of anti-Muslim organisation, well may he set himself the question he asked on that day how under these circumstances he will be able to show his face before Allah on the day of judgment.